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the Bank struggle. The Compromise of 1850 occupies but little more than a page, and there is not a word in respect to its influence upon parties.

The comments of Mr. Hopkins on recent political history are fuller than the treatment of the earlier period would lead us to expect, are always in good temper and are always instructive. The last chapter, which is "A General Review" of the party history of the United States, will reward every reader.

ANSON D. MORSE.

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A Century of American Diplomacy. By JOHN W. FOSTER.

Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1900. — xv, 497 pp.

This work, as its title indicates, covers a hundred years of American diplomacy, the period extending from 1776 to 1876; but a final chapter on the Monroe Doctrine traces the development of that subject down through the Venezuelan incident, and in an appendix a complete list is given of the secretaries of state down to the present time. The first hundred pages comprise the diplomatic history of the United States during the Revolution and the existence of the Articles of Confederation. The period, however, between the establishment of peace and the formation of government under the constitution is sketched very briefly, while the interesting and important transactions of the Revolutionary time are treated with much fullness of detail. A considerable part, indeed, of the chapter on peace under the Confederation is devoted to an examination of certain incidents of the negotiation of 1782 and of the part taken in it by some of the persons most prominent in bringing it to a successful conclusion. In discussing the course of the American commissioners, in concluding the treaty without consulting the French government and in departing in this respect from their instructions, the author states (p. 78) that the correspondence now accessible

shows that the suspicions of the American commissioners as to the opposition of France respecting some of the provisions of the treaty were well founded, and that she was secretly using her influence in a manner injurious to the United States;

and in another place (p. 77) he refers to the action of Lord Shelburne in declining "the overtures of the French government as to the boundaries"; while he also remarks (p. 70) upon the "honorable

conduct" of the British negotiators and government, "in contrast with that of France." In narrating, however, the circumstances which aroused the suspicions of Jay,—namely, the disclosure by Rayneval to Jay of France's approval of Spain's territorial claims, the intercepted letter of Marbois and the visit of Rayneval to London under an assumed name,—he observes that the "impressions of Mr. Jay on the last two points, it is now known, were not entirely well founded," and quotes the statement of Vaughan, whom Jay sent to England chiefly for the purpose of counteracting Rayneval's influence, that he found his mission on this point "utterly needless." In fact, Rayneval's confidential reports of his conferences with the British ministry, as published by Doniol, afford evidence that he sought nothing adverse to the interests of the United States. In estimating the respective parts performed by our representatives in the diplomacy of the Revolutionary period, Mr. Foster assigns the post of honor to Franklin, as "our first and greatest diplomat."

The troublous events of the administrations of Washington and Adams are reviewed with a clear appreciation of what was accomplished, and with a just tribute to the skill and constancy with which our foreign relations were conducted in the face of a turbulent popular and factious opposition. In the account of the administration of Jefferson, the social infelicities resulting from the President's attempt to enforce at the White House "the rule of *pêle-mêle*," which afforded an opportunity for uncivil persons even to dart and scramble for the best seats at table, occupy a prominent place, though not to the exclusion of more serious matters. These incidents do not appear to have had an important effect on our international relations, but they are entertaining and possess some historical value.

The questions leading up to the War of 1812 are mentioned, but not discussed, the author observing that it "would be a tedious work to attempt a narration of the causes and circumstances which occasioned that conflict." He presents, however, an impartial view of the true relation of the United States to the great European struggle, and of the motives and exigencies of the course of the British government.

Without going further into detail, it may be said that Mr. Foster has produced a work that is readable as well as instructive. It abounds in sketches of character, and sets before us not only events, but also the actors in them. It possesses value for both the student and the general reader.

J. B. MOORE.